



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPSTATE MAN SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS FOR WIRE FRAUD

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Ray N. Sims, age 49, of Pauline, South Carolina, was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for wire fraud, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343. Senior United States District Judge Henry M. Herlong, Jr. of imposed the sentence and ordered Sims to pay over \$280,000 in restitution.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that Sims worked for the employee leasing company Turtle & Hughes. He was placed at the Honeywell plant in Duncan, SC. He served as the site manager in Duncan. As the site manager, Turtle & Hughes provided Sims with a company credit card to be used for legitimate expenses. In June 2010, Turtle & Hughes discovered

some irregularities with Sims' use of the credit card. An internal audit showed what appeared to be many items purchased for personal use. The FBI also began an investigation.

Sims was interviewed by the FBI on February 25, 2011. He admitted that he began to use the credit card for personal items beginning in 2007. He purchased University of Georgia memorabilia, televisions, electronics, gaming systems, cameras, laptops, and various other items. Some of the items he sold for cash—especially in 2009 when he was experiencing financial difficulties.

The case was investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Bill Watkins of the Greenville office handled the case.

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